

RABIES

Human rabies is an acute viral illness of the central nervous system. The disease almost always progresses to coma or death within ten days of the first symptom. Death is usually due to respiratory paralysis. Onset is often heralded by a sense of apprehension, headache, fever, malaise and indefinite sensory changes at the site of a preceding animal bite.

Laboratory Criteria for Confirmation (Human):

- Detection by direct fluorescent antibody of viral antigens in a clinical specimen (preferably the brain or the nerves surrounding hair follicles in the nape of the neck), **OR**
- Isolation (in cell culture or in a laboratory animal) of rabies virus from saliva, cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) or central nervous system tissue, **OR**
- Identification of a rabies-neutralizing antibody titer ≥ 5 (complete neutralization) in the serum or CSF of an unvaccinated person.

Two cases of human rabies have been reported in Kentucky since 1979, the most recent in 1996 in a south central Kentucky woman who died as a result of rabies. The investigation indicated that a bat bite was the probable source of exposure.¹ Aggressive immunization of dogs and improvements in both the availability and quality of rabies vaccines have played major roles in the prevention of rabies.

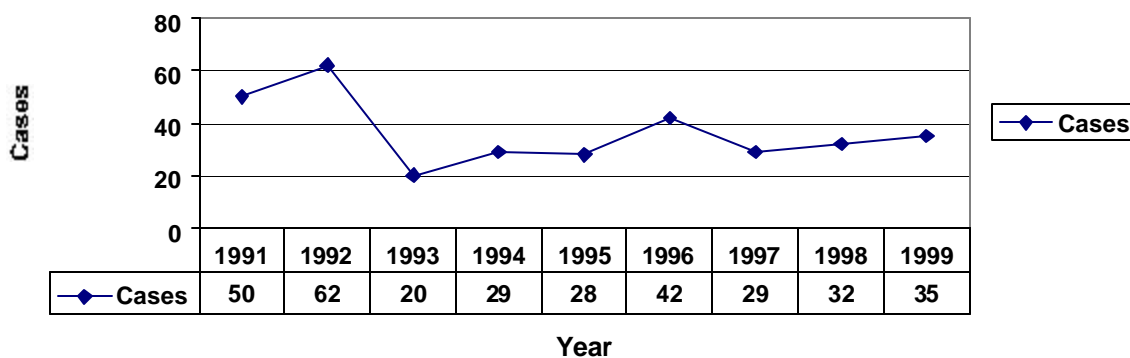
Laboratory Criteria for Confirmation (Animal):

- Detection of rabies viral antigens by direct fluorescent antibody test performed on central nervous system tissue, **OR**
- Isolation of rabies virus in cell culture or an inoculated laboratory animal

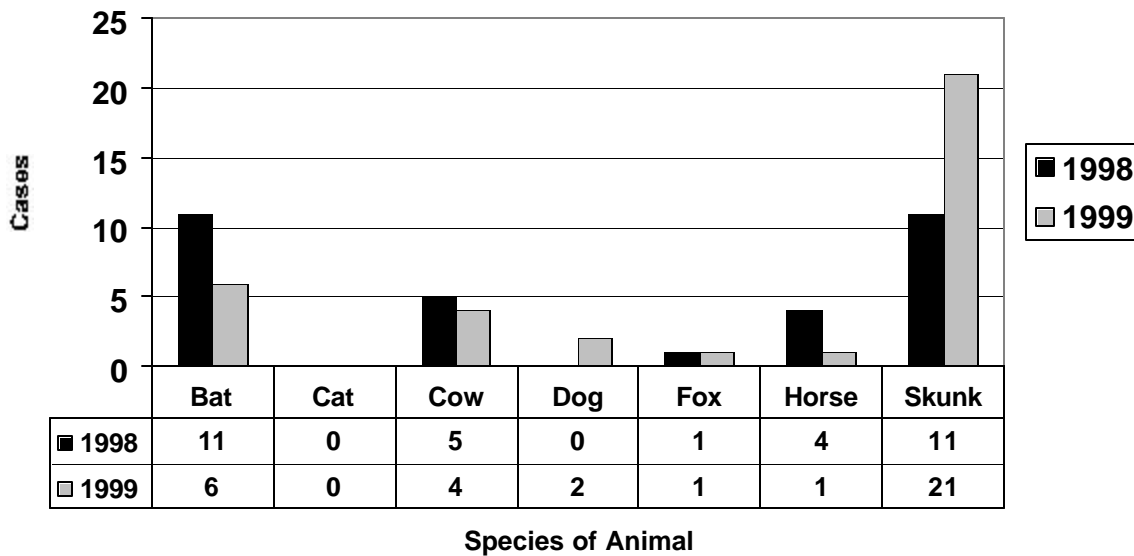
	1998	1999
Number of Animal Cases	32	35

¹Reports summarizing the clinical course and investigation of this case are published in *MMWR*, May 9, 1997, Vol. 46/ No. 18 and *Kentucky Epidemiologic Notes & Reports*, April, 1997.

Animal Rabies Cases, Kentucky 1991-1999



Animal Rabies Cases by Species Kentucky, 1998-1999

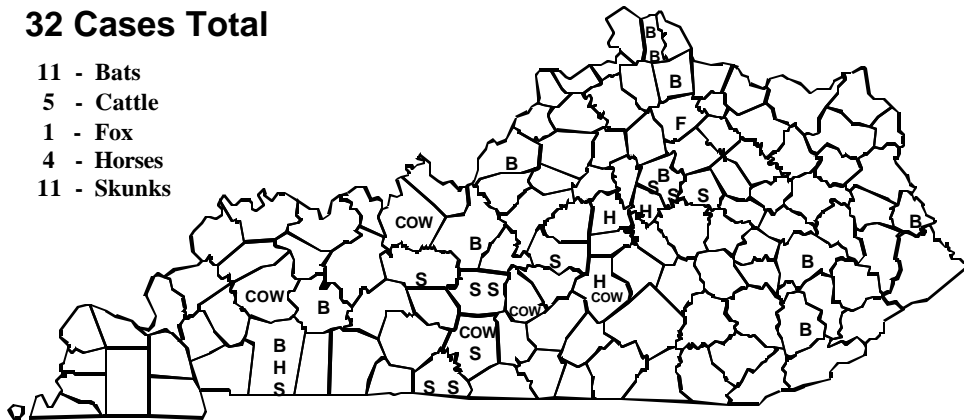


In the 1998-1999 period 23.9% (16) of the total confirmed rabies cases were in domestic animals and 76.1% (51) were in wildlife. Skunks accounted for 62.7% of the number of positive cases in wildlife, and bats accounted for 33.3% of the cases in wildlife.

Rabies Cases in Kentucky - 1998

32 Cases Total

11 - Bats
5 - Cattle
1 - Fox
4 - Horses
11 - Skunks



Allen - 2 Skunks
Barren - 1 Cow, 1 Skunk
Breathitt - 1 Bat
Breckinridge - 1 Cow
Casey - 1 Horse, 1 Cow
Christian - 1 Bat, 1 Horse,
1 Skunk
Clark - 1 Skunk

Fayette - 1 Bat, 2 Skunks
Grayson - 1 Skunk
Green - 1 Cow
Hardin - 1 Bat
Harrison - 1 Fox
Hart - 2 Skunks
Hopkins - 1 Cow
Jefferson - 1 Bat

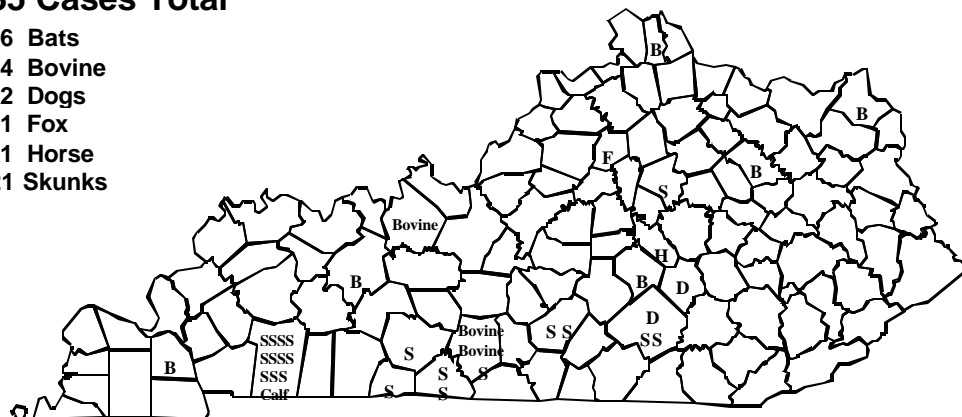
Jessamine - 1 Horse
Kenton - 2 Bats
Leslie - 1 Bat
Marion - 1 Skunk
Martin - 1 Bat
Mercer - 1 Horse
Muhlenburg - 1 Bat
Pendleton - 1 Bat

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Rabies Cases in Kentucky - 1999

35 Cases Total

6 Bats
4 Bovine
2 Dogs
1 Fox
1 Horse
21 Skunks



Adair - 2 Skunks
Allen - 2 Skunks
Bath - 1 Bat
Barren - 2 Bovine, 1 Skunk
Breckinridge - 1 Bovine
Christian - 11 Skunks, 1 Calf

Fayette - 1 Skunk
Franklin - 1 Fox
Garrard - 1 Horse
Greenup - 1 Bat
Kenton - 1 Bat
Lincoln - 1 Bat

Marshall - 1 Bat
Ohio - 1 Bat
Pulaski - 1 Dog, 2 Skunks
Rockcastle - 1 Dog
Simpson - 1 Skunk
Warren - 1 Skunk

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